man power in respect of poultry development.

(c) Yes. These schemes were reviewed by Planning Commission as a mid-term review during 1994-95.

(d) Planning Commission has observed that the schemes are running satisfactorily and the targets are achieved.

Cultivation and Export of Mushroom

284. DR. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the state of mushroom cultivation in India;

(b) the steps taken, if any, to disseminate information about the nutritious value of mushroom;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to promote the export of mushroom; and

(d) whether there are quarantine measures for detecting pathogens from mushroom and spawns of mushroom imported from abroad?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Commercial mushroom cultivation in India which started in 1960s has made significant advances during the last five years. In addition to the farms set up for production of fresh mushrooms for domestic markets, a large number of hi-tech export oriented units have been set up all over the country for production of fresh/processed mushroom products for export markets. On a rough estimate the total production of fresh mushrooms during the year is likely to tough 30,000 metric tonnes. While white button mushroom dominates the scene, other mushrooms like Oyster and Paddy Straw mushrooms are also being cultivated particularly in Southern and Eastern India.

(b) Information about nutritious value of mushroom constitute an important part of the curricullum for all the training courses as well as the extension and technical publications of National Centre for Mushroom Research and Training. Solan and other research centres under the All India Coordinated Research Projects on Mushroom of ICAR. The State Governments are also conducting training programmes on popularisation of mushrooms as an important source of vegetable protein.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

Demand and Production of Chemicals & Fertilizers

285. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand of chemicals and fertilizers in the country particularly in the State of Punjab during the last three years;

(b) the total production of chemicals and fertilizers in the country during this period;

(c) the details of import of fertilizers during this period; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to increase the production of fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA:) (a) to (c) The demand of chemical fertilisers in the country including Punjab and their production and imports during last three years arc given in the Annexure. *[See appendix 179, Annexure 8]*

(d) Following arc the steps taken to increase the production of fertilisers:

(i) The domestic urea industry is supported through the Retention price-cum-subsidy scheme.

(ii) Assistance is provided to the fertiliser industry for securing linkages of feedstock, fuel and rail movement.

(iii) Liquid petroleum products used as feedstock and fuel in fertiliser

plants are supplied at concessional price.

(iv) Requirement of an industrial licence for setting up a fertiliser plant has been dispensed with.

(v) Investment in the fertiliser sector is encouraged, inter-alia, through concessions on supplies of capital goods for the fertiliser industry in the form of import duty exemption and deemed export benefits, as well as interest rate concession on Long-term loans raised by fertiliser units.

(vi) The rate of special concession on indigenously manufactured DAP has been enhanced w.e.f. 6.7.1996 from Rs.1000/- per tonne to Rs.3000/- per tonne. Proportionate increase in the rate of concession has been allowed in respect of other complex fertilisers. In respect of SSP, the rate of special concession has been enhanced from Rs.340/- per tonne to Rs.500/- per tonne.

Besides, the central public/cooperative sector fertiliser units have adopted the following strategy to augment the production and availability of fertilisers:

(i) Expansion/retrofitting/revamping of existing fertiliser plants;

(ii) Overcoming the constraints in the availability of natural gas by setting up naptha-based fertiliser plants and installing dual fuel/ feedstock facilities in the existing plants and projects under implementation;

(iii) Setting up of joint venture projects in countries having abundant and cheap raw material resources.

Budgetary support is being provided to the sick fertiliser undertakings in the central public sector to enable them to sustain their production.

गुजरात के विश्वविद्यालयों के लिए विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग से सहायता

286. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी: क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों में गुजरात के किन-किन विश्वविद्यालयों को विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग द्वारा कुल कितनी वित्तीय सहायता मंजूर की गई।

(ख) इनमें कुल कितने शिक्षक, कर्मचारी तथा छात्र हैं,

(ग) क्या ये विश्वविद्यालय अपेक्षित स्तर की उच्च शिक्षा में अपना योगदान कर रहे हैं,

(घ) क्या इन विश्वविद्यालयों के शिक्षण स्तर के संबंध में कोई शिकायत प्राप्त हुई है, और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के शिक्षा विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुही राम सैकिया): (क) से (ङ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Protection of Peacocks

287. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any survey has been conducted regarding the number of peacocks in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that this species is facing gradual extinction due to a mystery disease and highly concentrated pesticides;

(c) the details regarding the regions where this bird is found in large number;

(d) whether any action plan has been made to protect the peacocks;

(e) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Peacock Sanctuary in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN